



## **Make 2007 the Summer of the Book**

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I believe that one of the best things that children and families can do is to develop a love for books. The ability to read is essential to success in all areas of life in our society. And when you check out books at the downtown or Highlands branch of the Renton Public Library, reading is an inexpensive activity that will provide hours of relaxation and enjoyment.

Are you planning a trip for your summer vacation? The library has an excellent collection of the latest travel guides to local areas in the Pacific Northwest as well as to exotic locales in more distant lands. Does your family enjoy outdoor activities in the summer? You'll find guides to hiking, boating, camping, viewing wildlife—you'll even find recipes for that backyard barbecue you're planning. Or, if you just want to pass the time with a good read, the library has a wide selection of the newest titles for your enjoyment.

Best of all is the pleasure of sharing a good book with your family. I encourage you to follow Governor Christine Gregoire's recommendation and set aside 20 minutes a day to read with your children, which will maintain and enhance the reading habits and skills they learned during the school year. Have them read their favorite book to you, to each other, or have every family member take turns reading a chapter of a book out loud for all to enjoy.

A fun way to ensure that reading becomes a regular summer activity for your children is to have them participate in the summer reading program at the Renton libraries. Boys and girls who complete the 2007 summer reading program will receive a special Certificate of Recognition from Governor Gregoire, State Librarian Jan Walsh, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson as well as a free book for every poster that they complete. In addition, older children might enjoy sharing reviews of favorite books or communicating with other kids about what they're reading at the Summer Reading Blog on the Washington State Library website (<http://www.washingtonreads.org/blog/>).

So make this the summer of the book! Turn off the TV, get your library card, and explore the wonderful world of books that we, the community of Renton, provide through our libraries. For more information and to complete a survey and give us your input on library services, please visit the Renton Library website at <http://library.rentonwa.gov>.

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